

Houston & Peach County Business Legislative Agenda 2012

Our combined membership that represents the largest business voice in Central Georgia comprised of a diverse business community representing every industry. We recognize that the largest employer in our region – and indeed the largest industrial complex in our state – is Robins Air Force Base (RAFB). We also recognize that the second largest employer in our region is the collective resources of small businesses of all types. Together, large industry and small, we are business people who recognize that quality education, outstanding employment opportunities, and a superior quality of life are the components of a bright future for the entire Houston & Peach County Region.

Needs Identification - Regional Needs and Challenges

Members of the Peach County, the Perry Area, and the Robins Regional Chambers of Commerce were asked to identify what they believed to be the greatest challenges facing our region that they felt can and should be addressed by the Houston & Peach County Legislative Delegation in 2012.

Enhanced Support of Robins Air Force Base

Our priority in 2012 will be to provide maximum support to the organizations that take the lead on enhancing Robins Air Force Base relations and viability within our community, including but not limited to:

- 21st Century Partnership
- Middle GA Military Affairs Committee
- Various Chamber Governmental Affairs Committees

We **SUPPORT** legislation and/or funding for:

- Initiatives focused on promoting the missions at Robins. Our region has been challenged in 2012 to assist in the promotion of all missions at Robins Air Force Base and expand our focus to include this broad range of missions.

- Initiatives that positively impacts the viability and strength of Robins Air Force Base including:

- BRAC preparation
- Air quality improvement
- Encroachment
- Alternate access

Local and State Government Priorities

We **SUPPORT** legislation and/or funding for:

- SPLOST and eSPLOST
- Traffic and transportation infrastructure initiatives
- Initiatives that will enhance Robins Air Force Base viability
- Initiatives that will enhance our local educational priorities
- The Legislative Agendas of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Economic Development Association (GEDA) in all instances where said agendas do not conflict with the best interest of our region.
- Initiatives that support our local museums and education centers

Continued focus on Economic Development

- The need to add both military and non-military on-base and off-base employment opportunities to our area, attracting technology, pharmaceutical and health related businesses, and more.
- The need to develop arts, culture and sports programs as both quality-of-life and employment priorities.
- The need for government to operate responsibly and with restraint when it comes to new taxes and regulation.
- The need to ensure that all parts of our region remain economically strong and healthy.

How we will accomplish our mission

- Providing representation for our membership
- Create a channel of two-way communication for our membership and our local and state legislators
- Provide multiple platforms for our local and state legislators to interact with our membership and local business owners (refer to the 2012 Government Affairs Committee, Program of work)

Peach County Chamber of Commerce

Gary Deeb, Chairman

Contact: Perry Swanson, President, 478.825.3733

Perry Area Chamber of Commerce

Rob Brooks, Chairman

Dey Palmer, Governmental Affairs Chairman

Contact: Gary Bishop, Interim President, 478.987.1234

Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce

Shaw Blackmon, Chairman

Justin Ritchie, Governmental Affairs Chairman

Contact: Morgan Law, President & CEO, 478.922.8585